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GOVERNOR DAVIS CELEBRATES THE LIFE OF REVEREND MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

LOS ANGELES – Governor Gray Davis today applauded the thousands of people participating in community service activities throughout the State in honor of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Davis joined Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson and San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown at Los Angeles' Kingdom Day Parade.

Remembering Dr. King, Governor Davis made the following statement:

"This week, Sharon and I join all Californians in honoring the memory of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior.

"Four decades ago, Dr. King voiced his dream for America's future with an eloquence that both opened our minds and lifted our hearts. His dream was America's dream. Today, we pledge not only to keep his dream alive, but also to make it real for every California citizen.

"If Dr. King were alive today, I'm sure he would celebrate the gains we've made – in education, children's health care, civil rights and economic opportunity. But, at the same time, he'd remind us that there is hard work left undone. We must continue to build a society in which we accept our differences and honor our common humanity. We must continue to protect the public safety and to strengthen our public schools. We must continue to create new jobs and open new doors to a college education. And we must continue to unite as a people against the forces of hatred, fear, ignorance and terror.

"At a time like this, when everyday heroes wearing our nation's uniform are fighting for our freedom a half a world away, Dr. King's message is a powerful reminder of what we're fighting for.

"Today, let us all reach out to one another in the spirit of service and forge a future of freedom, justice and equality for all. Let us, in the words of Dr. King himself, "move on in these powerful days . . . to make America what it ought to be." 40 years ago, that was the dream of one man. Today, it's the mission of every man, woman and child in California and the best hope of America."

Continuing celebrations into the evening Gov. Davis attended the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's 26th Anniversary Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King.

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